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December  
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## House backs conference talks in nail-biter vote

Geof Koss, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:50:57

Another controversy is the Senate bill's base erosion anti-abuse tax (BEAT) provisions, which renewable interests say will inadvertently stifle foreign investments in U.S. energy projects by subjecting them to a 100 percent tax. Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Thune of South Dakota said yesterday that staff is reviewing what he called "all the different interactions and feedback effects of what we've done." Late efforts by Senate Republicans to fix the BEAT provisions failed, although Thune said he hoped it could be addressed in conference. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## U.S. Tax Plan Could Slash Clean-Energy Support From Big Banks

By Joe Ryan, Bloomberg • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:51:27

Clean-energy developers are learning the hard way that every line of the U.S. tax code is connected. While the bill passed by Senate Republicans over the weekend would preserve crucial credits for wind and solar farms, it also imposes a minimum tax on foreign transactions for JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and other large investors that threatens to erode the value of those credits. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Tax Bill Impact: What Happens to Renewable Energy?

BY GEORGINA GUSTIN, Inside Climate News • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:51:47

The Senate voted early Saturday to approve a major overhaul of the U.S. tax code that critics say would decimate clean energy investments while continuing to hand out tax breaks to the oil and gas industries. The sweeping tax system overhaul bill—which represents the biggest corporate tax cut in the country's history and would reach into many areas of American lives—also contains language that would open the door for oil and gas companies to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Pruitt on climate science: 'I have a whole plan'

Niina Heikkinen, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:52:20

U.S. EPA's transition team had planned a much harder attack on the agency's ability to address climate change, according to a former member. A draft of President Trump's "energy independence" executive order had initially directed EPA to reconsider the endangerment finding, said David Schnare, a transition and "beachhead" team member at EPA who helped draft the order. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## How Trump Did the Impossible: Got Solar, Oil Lobbyists to Unite

By Ari Natter, Bloomberg • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:52:48

In his 20 years of promoting renewable energy in Washington, Gregory Wetstone has made common cause with a range of special interest groups: - environmentalists, power utilities, even a handful of natural gas producers. But President Donald Trump's efforts to bail out the coal industry led Wetstone, the head of the American Council on Renewable Energy, to find a surprising new partner: Big Oil. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Xcel learns to forecast wind, then shuts coal plants

John Fialka and Benjamin Storrow, E&E News reporters • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:53:03

"We've been moving in this direction for some time," said David Eves, who leads Xcel's Colorado division. "I think that the logical step that we just moved into here is the transformation of the system, the retirement of the coal, the reuse of the transmission, as part of the new renewable plan as stand-alone additions of new wind and solar." [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Coal, nuclear lobbyists set to pitch \$70B tax credit

Hannah Northey, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:53:27

The nuclear and coal industries are quietly crafting legislative pleas for tens of billions of dollars in new tax credits — an aggressive move that builds on the Trump administration's ongoing quest for policy relief. Lobbyists and private energy companies are working on two separate pieces of legislation that call for up to \$4.8 billion for existing nuclear reactors and \$60.5 billion for existing coal plants, industries that have been undercut in recent years by a booming shale revolution and waning demand for electricity. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Tesla isn't the only company creating cool electric vehicles anymore

By Peter Holley, Washington Post • • Posted 2017-12-05 06:53:44

It wasn't that long ago when Tesla seemed like the only company making cool electric cars that you'd want to drive. If this year's Los Angeles Auto Show is any indication, that niche no longer belongs exclusively to Elon Musk. After months of signs suggesting a shift in global momentum toward an electric future, some of the world's most established automakers are starting to reveal what they've been working on for the EV world. [ [read](#)

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